

Course Outline

COURSE: LAWS 3907 I Legal Research Methods

PREREQUISITES: LAWS 1000 and Honours Standing

TERM: Winter 2008

CLASS: Day & Time: Wednesday 8:30-11:30
Room: 311 SA (Southam Hall)

INSTRUCTOR: Zeina Bou-Zeid
(SESSIONAL)

CONTACT: Office: C476 Loeb
Office Hrs: Monday at 5:00-6:00pm and Wednesday 11:30-12:30
Zeina_Bou-Zeid@carleton.ca
Email:

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations in this course are required to contact a coordinator at the Paul Menton Centre to complete the necessary *letters of accommodation*. The student must then make an appointment to discuss their needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first class or ITV test. This is to ensure sufficient time is available to make the necessary accommodation arrangement. Please note the deadline for submitting completed forms to the PMC for formally scheduled exam accommodations is March 14, 2008 for April examinations. For further information, please see, http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/accm_policy.html

COURSE OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT

This is a required course in the B.A. Honours Law program. The course is designed to assist students in developing legal research skills and techniques in traditional and electronic research methodologies and in applying those skills and techniques. The focus will be law-related and social-sciences related resources. Students will have an opportunity to develop these skills and techniques in the classroom and through participation in labs and will apply these skills and techniques through developing and writing a research proposal. Students will require a Quicklaw and a Lexis-Nexis account.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Wayne C. Booth et al., *The Craft of Research* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2003).

McGill Law Journal, *Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation*, 6th ed. (Scarborough, Ontario: Carswell, 2006).

Available at the Carleton University Bookstore.

Note: Other required readings will include articles placed on reserve in the library.
Students should check WebCT regularly for course updates and assignments.

RESERVE READINGS

- Callister, Paul Douglas “Beyond Training: Law Librarianship’s Quest for the Pedagogy of Legal Research Education” (2003) 95 *Law Library Journal* 7. (WebCT)
- Castel, Jacqueline and Omeela Latchman, *The Practical Guide to Canadian Legal Research*, 2nd ed. (Scarborough, Ontario: Carswell, 1996). (selected pages/ on Reserve)
- Dawson, T.B. “Legal Research in a Social Science Setting: the Problem of Method” (1992) 14 *Dal. L.J.* 445. (on Reserve)
- Fitzgerald, Maureen F., *Legal Problem Solving: Reasoning, Researching and Writing*, 2nd ed. (Toronto: Butterworths Canada Ltd., 2001). (selected pages/ on Reserve)
- Madson, D. *Successful Dissertations and Theses*, 2nd ed. (California: Jossey-Bass Inc., 1992) (selected pages/on Reserve)
- Posner, Richard, “The Decline of Law as an Autonomous Discipline: 1962-1987” (1987) 100 *Harvard Law Review*, 761. (on Reserve)
- Waddams, S.M., *Introduction to the Study of Law*, 5th ed. (Toronto: Carswell, 1997). (selected pages/ on Reserve)

EVALUTATION SCHEME

Evaluation Component	Value	Assigned	Due
Class Participation	10%		(ongoing)
Research Topic & Annotated Bibliography	15%	Jan. 9	Feb. 6
Case Law Assignment	15%	Jan. 30	Feb. 27
Statutes and Related Materials Assignment	15%	Feb. 27	March 12
Final Research Proposal	45%	Feb. 27	April 4

COURSE COMPONENTS**Participation 10%**

This course is structured as a seminar in which individual participation is an important component of the course. You are expected to contribute to in-class discussions and come to class having read the assigned readings. Your participation mark is based upon actual attendance in classes and labs and your contribution to group discussions and presentations.

Research Topic & Annotated Bibliography 15%

In this first assignment you are required to provide a properly formulated research question arising in the Canadian legal context (suggested subject areas will be provided to you). You must also appropriately cite and annotate four relevant secondary sources that are directly relevant to your research question. All citations must conform to the citation style set out in the *Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation*.

Case Law Assignment 15%

In this assignment you are required to identify relevant cases and discuss their importance to your project. This assignment allows you to demonstrate your ability to find relevant cases. You will also be required to provide a case brief for one of the cases. All citations must conform to the citation style set out in the *Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation*.

Statutes and Related Materials Assignment 15%

In this assignment you are required to identify relevant statutes, regulations, and government documents and discuss their importance to your project. This assignment allows you to demonstrate your ability to find these relevant materials. All citations must conform to the citation style set out in the *Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation*.

Research Proposal 45%

This final assignment asks you produce a final research proposal incorporating and expanding on all the research that you have done throughout the term. You should also reflect upon the interdisciplinary dimensions of the research question and how this will affect your approach to the research. All relevant journal articles, case law, statutes, regulations and government documents must be properly cited. You will be evaluated on your ability to propose a project that is clearly defined and provides an analysis of the benefits of integrating social science and legal research methods.

More detailed instructions for assignments will be provided in class.

ASSIGNMENTS

Any written work submitted must be typewritten, double-spaced, 12pt Times New Roman font with standard 1inch margins. All assignments **must** include a title page with the course code, your name and your student number and my name on it. Title pages, bibliographies and endnotes are **not** counted in calculating page length for an assignment.

All written assignments must be completed in order to pass the course.

All assignments must be handed in at the Law Department office drop box by 4:00 pm on the due date or to me personally in class. Assignments will not be accepted by e-mail or under the door of the sessional instructors' office.

Students must keep a hard copy of anything submitted for marking for 3 months after submission.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Late assignments will be marked down by one-half letter grade (e.g. B to B-, B- to C+) for each day the assignment is late. Assignments must be submitted within 6 days of the due date. If they are submitted after 6 days they will receive a grade of F. Requests for an extension must be made to me prior to the due date and will only be considered if there is an extreme reason (requests must be accompanied by supporting documentation).

COURSE SCHEDULE & READINGS

Class	Date	Topic	Readings
1.	Jan. 9	Introduction to course and overview. Brainstorming: Selecting a Research Topic Assignment # 1 (Assigned) Research Topic & Annotated Bibliography	Booth et. al.: Pt.1 Prologue & Chaps. 1& 2
2.	Jan. 16	Introduction to Legal Studies in an Interdisciplinary Setting	<u>Reserve Readings:</u> Dawson,B.T. Legal Research Posner, R. The Decline of Law Waddams, S.M. Introduction to the Study of Law Callister, P. Beyond Training (WebCT)
3.	Jan. 23	Research Design: Planning Your Project Overview of Legal & Socio-legal Sources: Case Law, Secondary Sources, Statutes and Government Documents Finding and Using Journal Articles Citation: Secondary Sources, Footnotes and Bibliography	Booth et. al.: Pt.2 Prologue & Chaps 3 & 4 Booth et. al. Chaps. 5 & 6 <i>Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation:</i> Introduction/Chapter 1 Secondary Sources/Chapter 6 <u>Reserve Readings</u> Fitzgerald p. 31-58
4.	Jan. 30	Introduction to Canadian Abridgement/Canadian Encyclopedic Digest How to Read a Case Case Brief Exercise Citation: Cases Assignment # 2 (Assigned) Case Law	<i>Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation:</i> Cases/Chapter 3 WebCT: Cranston Case and Case Brief Format <u>Reserve Readings</u> Castel & Latchman p. 37-40, 55-58, 59-69
5.	Feb. 6	Lab # 1: Finding Case Law/Westlaw & eCarswell Time: 9:00am Location: Room 102 MacOdrum Library Guest: Michelle DeVidi, Law Librarian Assignment # 1 (DUE) Research Topic & Annotated Bibliography	None
6.	Feb. 13	Lab # 2: Quicklaw Training Time: 9:00am Location: TBA	None
7.	Feb. 20	Winter Break No class or Office Hours.	None

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8.	Feb. 27	<p>Legislative Process and Researching Statutes</p> <p>Government Documents</p> <p>Citation: Statutes and Government Documents</p> <p>Assignment # 2 (Due) Case Law</p> <p>Assignment # 3 (Assigned) Statutes and Government Documents</p> <p>Assignment # 4 (Assigned) Research Proposal</p>	<p><i>Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation: Statutes/Chapter 2.</i></p> <p>Reserve Readings Fitzgerald p. 105-123, 143-161</p>
9.	March 5	<p>Lab # 3: Researching Statutes and Government Documents</p> <p>Time: 9:00am</p> <p>Location: Room 102 MacOdrum Library</p> <p>Guests: Michelle DeVidi, Law Librarian & Frances Montgomery, Government Document Specialist</p>	<p>(SAME AS WEEK 8)</p> <p><i>Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation: Statutes/Chapter 2.</i></p> <p>Reserve Readings Fitzgerald p. 105-123, 143-161</p>
10.	March 12	<p>Conducting Additional Research and Communicating Your Findings:</p> <p>(Archival, Interviews, News Media) (United States and International Legal Research Strategies)</p> <p>Assignment # 3: (Due) Statutes and Government Documents</p>	<p>Reserve Readings Fitzgerald p. 253-270</p>
11.	March 19	<p>Preparing to write your Research Proposal</p>	<p>Booth et. al. Chaps. 7-12.</p> <p>Reserve Readings Madsen, D. p.51-62</p>
12.	March 26	<p>Group Work and Presentations: The Research Process</p>	<p>None</p>
13.	April 2	<p>Course Overview</p> <p>Assignment # 4: (DUE: April. 4, 2007) Research Proposal</p>	<p>None</p>